

**EPA/USACE Superfund
Remediation Conference
Comments for Col. Thomas Julich
November 27, 2001**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to New Orleans.

This is a wonderful time of year for visitors in our fair city. The weather is mild and the temperatures accommodating. In fact, I thought it would be great for everyone to take a field trip to see remediation in progress at a nearby Superfund site, but we've completed them all...on time and within budget.

For almost 10 years now, the Corps and EPA have shared in what could be considered one of the Corps' most successful partnerships. These meetings, held to discuss problems, progress and upcoming projects, have been instrumental in shaping such an effective partnership.

Time and time again, in ridding communities of environmental contamination, the EPA has looked to the Corps for its project management, construction management and contracting expertise.

The partnership has been reaffirmed as we progressed from Bayou Bonfouca, one of the agency's most expensive Superfund cleanups at \$133 million, to Southern Ship, one of the fastest cleanups in EPA history.

Southern Ship was finished in record time. The pace was possible because of the innovative application of the Corps' Total Environmental Restoration Contract process. Both EPA and the Corps are committed to making Superfund faster and more responsive to community needs.

And I don't want to leave out our partnering efforts at American Creosote in Winnfield; Popile in Eldorado, Arkansas; North Ryan Street in Lake Charles; and Agriculture Street in New Orleans.

EPA also called upon the Corps in 1997 and 1998 to relocate the residents of more than 100 homes contaminated with methyl parathion. In some cases, the district purchased several mobile homes that could not be decontaminated. Relocations spanned nine cities or towns in Louisiana at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.

This work, along with Bonfouca and Southern Ship, totaled \$195 million. During all that time, there were many dedicated EPA and Corps employees working together to ensure cleanup was done in a safe and conscientious manner.

In July 2000, the Corps expanded its support to EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard, becoming proactive partners, along with the state and the Bureau of Reclamation, in cleaning and remediating abandoned and potential oil spill sites.

Keep in mind that the state of Louisiana provides 18% of the nation's oil. That represents hundreds of millions of barrels and thousands of miles of pipelines crossing our fair state. It stands to reason that the greatest risk for future leaks or spills are located here.

To that end, EPA, the Coast Guard, the Corps, and our partners have taken the lead in efforts to remediate oil-related contamination in Louisiana under the Oil Pollution Act Program.

The Corps is more than willing to assist while EPA assesses the problem and gets things moving. EPA's coordination, together with our rapid response contracts, allows all the partners to address the specifics of each project in a timely manner. We've had our people in the field, working closely with EPA to get the job done. In the past year and a half, this highly effective team cleaned up six sites in the Lake Charles area alone.

I believe EPA, like the Corps, is always striving to develop and implement the best methods and solutions to maintain the well-being of our citizens and our nation. The Corps looks forward to the continuing development of work activities within our district and to the highly successful partnership we have built with EPA over the last decade.

Thank you.